

**Arkansas School for the Blind
and Visually Impaired**
A Division of the Arkansas Department of Education



**It's All About The Kids
1857-2020**

Report to the Public 2020

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ASB
Parent Representative

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ASD
Parent Representative

Dear ASBVI Community,

Thank you for this opportunity to present to you our annual Report to the Public. We hope as you read through this report you will see reflected our core values of service, education, excellence, advocacy, and innovation that inform and inspire our mission and vision as demonstrated through our programs, services and the lives of our students.

This past year we witnessed the school year ending early for onsite instruction due to the pandemic. However, in true reflection of the above core values we also witnessed a dedicated staff delivering learning and engagement experiences for our students. This they have continued to do under very challenging and often stressful circumstances to meet the multiple layers of the students and school's needs. While we've had to adjust procedures and processes the programs and services of the school continue to move forward as reflected in this report.

In addition, we have taken on new methods of delivering instruction with blended and virtual learning. This has required significant investments in technology, learning new instructional platforms, ongoing teacher training and strengthening our communication with parents. We stay constantly aware that our parents are also sharing in these new challenges. Progress is being made and each day we get a little better in the cycle of school improvement and growth.

The annual ACT Aspire state assessments for the past year were cancelled so we do not have that particular student data to use for planning or gauging where student gaps in learning exist. To assist us in gauging student progress we are using Renaissance Learning assessment tools. In addition, we continue to work on our literacy plan and the science of reading to improve student reading skills and performance on future state assessments.

Report to the Public 2020

ADMINISTRATION

JAMES CATON
Superintendent

BEVERLY ROY
Executive Assistant

TERESA DOAN
K-12 Lead Principal

BETTY SANDERS
Executive Assistant

TYRONE WILLIAMS
Assistant Principal

AMANDA NOLES
Special Education Supervisor

DEBBIE MAYES
Administrative Assistant

MARY LEVY, RN
School Nurse Supervisor

BREONDA HODGES
Fiscal Support Manager/
Personnel Manager

WILLIAM HARRISON
Technology Director

JENA MCDONNELL
Director of
Records and Reporting

DEL RISINGER
Maintenance Supervisor

SHELLI MOORE
Birth to 3 Program Director

BARBARA COLE
Child Nutrition Director

Along with new educational changes we continue to build and strengthen our relationship with the Department of Education as part of the transformation of state government and agencies. As an agency under the Department we are participating in the ADE strategic planning process which gives us the opportunity to develop support and new resources for the school's mission and vision. A further effort towards transformation is being made through ASBVI and ASD continuing to develop shared services between the two schools.

Truly our mission and vision at the school requires the ongoing support from our stakeholders as we educate and prepare blind and visually impaired students for becoming productive and self-sufficient citizens in a sighted world. The support of the Governor, the State Legislature, the Department of Education, our Board of Trustees, the Arkansas School for the Blind Foundation, the Arkansas School for the Blind Alumni Association, and Friends of ASBVI, along with our families and partnerships within the field and community, make our mission and vision an everyday reality at ASBVI.

At ASBVI we have the privilege of educating blind and visually impaired students from all across the state of Arkansas. We offer a high level of specialization and consistent services that lead our students towards a life of self-sufficiency and the realization of their unique place in the world. Thank you to our families and students who are our everyday call to service. It is an honor to share and continue this journey with you.

It's all about the kids!

James Caton, Superintendent

2020-2021 Student Enrollment- 92

2020-2021 Full Time Staff- 92

Report to the Public 2020

TEACHERS

T.J. HUNT
Teacher

Melanie Shepard
Teacher

CODY ARNOLD
Kindergarten Teacher

MINDY BESS
Teacher

BRANDEY BURNETT
1st Grade Teacher

JOEL CARTER
Secondary Mathematics

LORI COLE
Teacher Supervisor/Braille Spec/ECC/AT

MARANDA COLE
School Librarian / Media Specialist

MINDY FITZGIBBON
Speech Pathologist

PHYLLIS GUNDERMAN
Resource Teacher

SHELLEY HARVEY
Pre-School Teacher

BOBBY HOLLEY
Secondary Science Teacher

PAM ROGERS
Orientation & Mobility Instructor

ABIGAIL JONES
2nd Grade Teacher

LESLIE BLAYLOCK
4th Grade Teacher

At the Arkansas School for the Blind we believe in starting at the beginning.

Birth to Three Program

This program provides outreach services across the state of Arkansas to blind and visually impaired babies ages 0-3, their families, caretakers and therapists.

This past year our program was able to touch the lives of 87 families. This program provides early intervention services in a variety of settings (home and day-care/pre-school). The program's vision specialists evaluate the children using the Oregon Assessment, conduct Functional Vision Assessments (FVA) and write up developmental reports that include the child's skill level, strengths and weakness, explanation of visual impairment and observations, recommendations and accommodations to help the child reach their developmental milestones, pre-braille skills, pre-O&M skills and increase visual awareness skills.

Instruction is provided to parents or caregivers to offer information and emotional support for acceptance of their child's visual impairment.

The program also provides special APH equipment to families, free braille books, resources, and networking with other parents.

Additionally, the "hands-on" approach provided by the ASBVI teachers is designed to help the children develop the prerequisite skills that are needed for entrance into a preschool setting.

Each year we have an annual "Cookies with Santa" event. This is an opportunity to promote early literacy as well as an opportunity for the families across the state to network. Each child receives a braille/large print book and a goodie bag, they get to decorate sugar cookies, meet Santa and get their pictures taken with Santa.

Report to the Public 2020

JENNIFER LINDER
School Counselor

WHITNEY MUSICK
Orientation & Mobility Instructor

ELIZABETH SPILMAN
Art Teacher

TONY NASTACI
Resource Teacher

ALICIA REDDICK
Choir / Music Teacher

JOE REYNOLDS
3rd Grade Teacher

MICHELE SMITH
Resource Teacher

STEPHANIE SMITH
Secondary Business Teacher

ALGIS STASKEVICIUS
Instructional Music

DOAH STROJEK
Secondary Social Studies Teacher

CHRISTINE STRACENER
Teacher

PAM WILLIAMS
FACS Teacher

DANIELLE WOLTERS
5th Grade Teacher

GINA LAFARLETT
GT Coordinator

REBEKAH LEWIS
Secondary English Teacher

ASBVI believes in the importance of early intervention for young students and their families and strives to visit with each child and their caregivers at least one time each month.

We hope to expand this program with additional staff and resources so that we can provide services to more babies and their families more often throughout the state. Early intervention is the key to future independence.

Re-entry Plan:

All school districts were given the charge to create a comprehensive plan for re-opening schools for the 2020 – 2021 school year called our “Ready for Learning” plan. This plan was to include steps that would be taken in the event that we had outbreaks of the Covid19 virus and how we would keep our students safe. Additionally, we had to create and adopt procedures that would enable us to pivot to virtual learning with very little notice.

Blended learning is a huge component of our Ready for Learning plan. All students were assigned a device (Chromebook, laptop, Braille device, or Braille writer) that allows them to work virtually. Also, teachers created a “google classroom” for their specific classes and have students practice accessing the classroom while they are being taught on campus. This has proven to be beneficial and helps ensure that the students are able to attend school regardless of their location.

STAR 360 assessments and “Refrigerator Curriculum” assessments were conducted over the first 2 weeks of school. Data is being gathered and compiled to enable target areas for remediation and instructional purposes. Title funds are available to pay appropriate staff for the provision of after school interventions.

Students, parents and teachers have been given support through the Adaptive Technology and Braille department.

Moreover, a survey was shared with all parents and families to determine if needs are being met. Results of the survey have indicated that a majority of families would prefer to return to campus full time if that was made available. This is related to the fact that we are ON campus Monday through Thursday, and are offering instruction virtually each Friday.

Report to the Public 2020

ALISHA KINDRICK
6th Grade Teacher

SUPPORT STAFF

CARY SMITH
Birth to 3 Consultant

MEG BERRY
Licensed Masters Social Worker

CANEDRA BINGHAM
Education Paraprofessional

REBEKAH BURCHFIELD
Education Paraprofessional

MILLIE NORDMAN
Education Paraprofessional

CHRISTINE BROWN
Education Paraprofessional

DEXTER CARTER
PE / Athletics Coach

TORI BOYD
Education Paraprofessional

NIKKI FINNEY
Instructional Assistant

DARBY MCCORMACK
Education Paraprofessional

JUDY JONES
Education Paraprofessional

TERRY POWELL
Education Paraprofessional

TONI RUSSELL
Instructional Assistant

ROBERT THACKER, RN
School Nurse

TYMBERLY GARETT, LPN
School Nurse

*Our Ready For Learning Plan is located on our website
www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org

Science of Reading and RISE

ASBVI chose to complete Pathway D. to fulfill our requirements to be compliant with the Science of Reading RISE initiative. Teachers and administrators were required to complete 18 hours of professional development through ARideas and then attend 3 additional focused days during the summer of 2020. Due to Covid19 the 3 additional days were offered virtually rather than face to face. The majority of the teachers have completed the aforementioned requirements, with just a couple needing to complete portions of the 3 additional days. Additionally, the principals both completed and met the requirements and are certified RISE assessors.

Specific curriculum (Benchmark Workshop) was purchased to provide virtual content in the event that the school pivots to distance learning. This curriculum in addition to the Heggerty curriculum ensures that we are complying with the Science of Reading requirements regardless how we are offering instruction, “face to face” or virtual.

School Improvement

ASBVI is accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education by meeting the same standards that public schools in Arkansas meet. Data entry and reporting through eSchool throughout the school year helps to ensure accountability and to maintain our accreditation.

Based on the 2018-2019 performance data from the state ACT Aspire summative assessment for grades 3-8 on the Reading section of the assessment ASBVI is currently in a coordinated support level through the Department of Education. While we don't have data from the 2019-2020 school year since the assessment was cancelled we continue to implement our developed District Literacy Plan to improve outcomes for our students on the Reading portion of the assessment. The state Science of Reading initiative and teacher training in the Science of Reading along with specialized curriculum and reading intervention is helping us work towards improvement.

Report to the Public 2020

ROBIN DEAN
Administrative Assistant IRC

TRISTA IRVING
Administrative Assistant IRC

MAURICE BRUMFIELD
Maintenance Technician

DEWANDA DAVIS
Environmental Services

SHAWN GALMORE
Environmental Services

EUGENE HESTER
Maintenance Technician

WALLY KING
Maintenance Technician

PATSY MURRAY
Environmental Services

MARCUS SMITH
Maintenance Technician

SHARON SMITH
Environmental Services

EMILY ROWELL
Child Nutrition

FELICIA HART
Child Nutrition

ANGELA HARVEY
Child Nutrition

DEBBIE MITCHELL
Child Nutrition Supervisor

ANESHA GONER
Child Nutrition

GARY SIMPKINS
Child Nutrition

CHERRAL THOMPSON
Child Nutrition

Elementary

The Elementary Program at ASBVI provides academic and developmental services for students who are in pre-kindergarten through 6th grade.

We believe that the early intervention services we provide for blind and visually impaired children are very important for their success. To that end we offer a full day STAAC program (Short Term Academic Assessment Classroom). This program is for 2 ½ through 3 year old students and allows an opportunity for the students to be evaluated in a structured setting prior to consideration of placement into special education. Currently, we have 2 students enrolled in our STAAC program. We also have 4 students enrolled in our Pre-K classroom this year.

Although the 2019 – 2020 school year ended early due to the Corona Virus pandemic, educational opportunities were still offered for all of our elementary students. All educational staff members participated in AMI (Alternate Methods of Instruction) activities and offered content and lessons to students as a reinforcement of previously learned concepts. Additionally, related services staff continued to offer private music and art lessons through virtual platforms. The Orientation and mobility specialists, birth to 3 program teachers and the physical education teachers offered instruction and reinforcement of expanded core curriculum concepts through virtual platforms as well.

Assessments are being completed on all learners to ensure that students recoup missed learning and to avoid learning deficits that can negatively impact future growth.

Report to the Public 2020

CASSANDRA SMITH
Child Nutrition

AMY LAMUEL
Administrative Assistant
Child Nutrition

CLARENCE CARTER
Residential Advisor

ROOSEVELT HADLEY
Residential Advisor

MARTHA HILL
Residential Advisor

ANGELA FOREST
Residential Advisor

DEBRA MORRIS
Residential Advisor

ASHLEY STENHOUSE
Residential Advisor

TONEY BEY
Residential Advisor

CHRISTINA WILLIAMS
Residential Advisor

JAMIE PRIESTER
Accountant II

BONITA NASH
Assistant Personnel Director

KELLIE THORNTON
Payroll Services Specialist

MIKE MILLER
Inventory Control Technician

Secondary

The 2019-2020 school year was met with much tenacity by the students, parents, and the administration. The students participated in on-campus and off-campus activities that helped shape their futures in becoming independent and successful contributors to their community. Two students worked through the beginning of the pandemic and became certified as C.N.A.s. Upon graduation, they both got accepted into the college of their choice. In addition, they both took advantage of gaining concurrent credit while completing their high school classes.

Other students took advantage of off-campus education through the Metropolitan Career Technical Center as a pathway to gain career readiness skills. They participated in classes such as automotive repair, graphic design, and medical professionals. During the pandemic students still persevered through the challenges of learning virtually and completed the courses. They received full-credit and the seniors went on to graduate and begin life post-high school. The administration team is especially proud of our students. They took on the responsibility and challenge of learning virtually last spring and they excelled.

A huge thank you to the parents for working with us hand-in-hand to ensure that their children were educated all the while dealing with the pandemic.

Advanced Placement

ASBVI is dedicated to raising the bar on education and implementing a rigorous curriculum. One way in which we offer a rigorous curriculum is through Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are currently available through our online course provider Virtual Arkansas as well as through agreements with local schools. While we will continue to use these providers it is our goal to provide these courses for our students here on the ASBVI campus which is why we strive to have AP certified staff.

Learning Center

ASBVI takes pride in educating students with all kinds of abilities. In some instances, we have students that need more hands-on, functional, and directed learning. In said cases, we have our Learning Center (LC) which focuses on incorporating academic education within a functional curriculum. The LC is intended to provide access to the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) while meeting the academic and functional needs of the students. The ECC includes Compensatory or Functional Academic Skills including Communication modes, Orientation and Mobility, Social Interaction Skills, Independent Living Skills, Recreation, and Leisure Skills, Career Education, use of Assistive Technology, Sensory Efficiency Skills, and Self-determination Skills. Last year some of the students in the LC participated in a job preparation program through “Superior Success.” Superior Success is a program that has been affiliated with the Division of Services for the Blind. Superior Success helped students get real-life job experiences which helped them to prepare to enter the workforce. The students had to apply and interview for their jobs. Once they began working, they had to wear a uniform, be ready to work each day and received a paycheck for their labor. This also helped them to get practice in financial literacy. Other students worked on functional skills within the school. They did projects such as gathering and selling items in a school store. Many of the students baked treats that were sold to the staff. They even had a yard sale that was open to the public. These projects helped the students learn how to manage money, they learned how to organize a project from start to finish, and they learned how to work as a team to reach a goal.

Distance Learning

The students at ASBVI have a vast amount of technology at their disposal. The students continue their education on many platforms. One of the tools available is the use of the Distance Learning Lab (DLL). The DLL is used for students that choose to pursue classes which cannot be offered on the ASBVI campus. ASBVI has continued to partner with Virtual Arkansas, a Division of Elementary and Secondary Education approved online learning provider that hosts a variety of courses in many different subject areas including Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. ASBVI’s partnership with Virtual Arkansas satisfies the requirements of Act 1280, the Digital Learning Act. This past year we had 2 students that participated in online learning courses. Some of the courses they took included Comp 1 and College Algebra for college credit. Online learning also gives students the opportunity to take concurrent credit course through Arkansas Tech University, where they can earn both high school and college credit. We had two students which completed concurrent math and English Composition I and II this past year.

Counseling

K-12 TVI Certified Professional School Counselor

The Arkansas School for the Blind Counseling Program provides comprehensive guidance and counseling services to the students, staff, and parents of ASB. Counseling and therapy services are provided by a Certified Professional School Counselor who serves students in grades K-12, and is available to serve students in the Preschool programs offered on campus as needed. The recognized helping processes used by the counselor incorporate the themes of leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change as part of the framework of the ASCA National Model (The Education Trust, 1997). During the 2019-2020 school year, the counseling program provided standards-based guidance lessons weekly for grades 1st-6th which primarily focused on social/emotional awareness, identifying core essential values for success, and promotion of character development. In grades 7-12, the counseling program focused on providing education and services to assist students in conflict resolution, held individual and group counseling, promoted college and career readiness programming through collaboration with outside stakeholders including colleges, area college and career planning service providers, and state agencies like Disability Services for the Blind. It is the belief of the school counselor that the counseling program is responsible for educating and advocating for the whole child approach, which ensures that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. In March, when schools were closed due to Covid-19, school counseling services were provided for all students to access virtually through a combination of Zoom meetings with individual students and parents and using social media outlets. A private Facebook group was created by our School Counselor, Ms. Linder, for Elementary Parents and Students as a resource for providing guidance and information along with video messages to students. Secondary students were provided a weekly grade level Zoom meeting with Ms. Linder, where they met to discuss various topics related to what they were experiencing during the closure and coping strategies for managing stress and strong emotions.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

ASB has an on staff Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The social worker provides counseling services for students and their families as well as in group settings. She helps students with various behavioral and emotional supports. She provides students and families with different resources that they need, such as Medicaid and SSI.

School Based Mental Health Services

As an additional resource, ASB now provides Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas with an office on campus to utilize while providing additional counseling and mental health services for students and families of ASB who choose to receive their services. Through our partnership with Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas, we are now able to access additional mental and behavioral health including individual, group, and/or family therapy, crisis and stabilization interventions, case management services coordinated with PCP referrals along with collaboration with community providers and resources.

Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee is committed to promoting health and wellness to the students and staff at the Arkansas School for the Blind. The committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis during the school year in order to ensure proper nutritional and physical activity policies are taking place. The team also works to plan activities throughout the year such as the annual Turkey Walk. At the end of the 2018-2019 school year ASBVI received a grant from Healthy Active Arkansas for a water bottle filling station that was installed in our main building. This is one way we are encouraging our student and staff to drink more water throughout the day. The Wellness Committee planned and orchestrated the “ASBVI Rethink Your Drink Campaign” which included the dedication of our Healthy Active Arkansas water bottle filling station, as well as, teaching segments as well as a full campus celebration to emphasize the importance of drinking water and dental health. The Wellness Committee completed an annual School Health Index for the Elementary and Secondary schools. This information, along with the student’s yearly BMI results, is what is used to write our current year Wellness Policy. The school’s current year Wellness Policy can be viewed on our school website at www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org.

Our special programs are what sets us apart

Low Vision Clinic

The Low Vision Clinic is housed in ASBVI under the direction of Dr. Kennan Doan, OD. The Low Vision Clinic offers premier assessments for students who are identified as having impaired vision. The clinic is open to students of Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired as well as public school students.

ASBVI Students are seen at least twice a year or more if needed. Dr. Doan visits the school weekly and examines the students with the goal of maximizing their visual efficiency through the prescription of optical devices or functional related services (O & M, etc.).

Out of the 125 students served in our Low Vision Clinic this past year 23 of them were public school students. Out of those 23 public school students 12 of them decided to start attending ASBVI during the regular school year.

EAST

The ASBVI EAST celebrated another great school year in 2019-2020. This year, the EAST students worked toward gaining new community partners, visiting with outside businesses and communities to learn problems within communities and ways our program could help solve some of these problems and issues.

Facilitators encouraged the students of EAST to consider ways their projects filled their “CART”, which stand for Creative, advance, real, and teamwork. Students were encouraged to advance continuing projects, and find new ones.

EAST’s focus is “Education Accelerated through Service and Technology”, this is also the

premise behind EAST. EAST is built on the four principles: technology driven, student- led, service-based and collaborative. Our students continue to hit the mark in all these principles through their projects this past year. They continue gaining the critical skills that are needed for the future workforce. EAST allows our students to take ownership of their programs.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic the annual EAST conference, which allows students to network with other programs, was cancelled.

Our students receive course credit through the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the course. This past year we had one graduating senior receive graduation cords for completing three years of EAST at ASBVI.

Summer Programs

Due to Covid-19 we had to cancel our summer camp program. However, DSB was able to offer job training experiences for students 16 and older through holding the summer Jumpstart program virtually. We had several staff and students participate in that program. We are hopeful we will be able to continue these programs onsite in future summers.

The Braille Challenge

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Proudly Announces the 10th annual AR. Regional Braille Challenge Winners!

(Little Rock)—On Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 8:30 a.m.to 3:30 p.m., more than forty blind and visually impaired students from across the state met in Little Rock to test their braille and literacy skills in an academic competition unlike any other. The students took part in The Arkansas Regional Braille Challenge, which was held at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, located at 2600 W. Markham in Little Rock. The Braille Challenge® is the only national academic competition for blind students in the United States and is a national program of Braille Institute of America. The Arkansas Regional Braille Challenge is the first step on the road to the national competition, which will be held in June at Braille Institute's headquarters in Los Angeles. Students from across the nation are completing preliminary testing this winter in hopes of qualifying for the 60 spots available in the national competition.

SPONSORS: The National Braille Institute * Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired-Regional Host site ** Humanware* Arkansas AER chapter, * Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind * Arkansas NAPVI * ASBVI Alumni Association * Friends of ASBVI

To learn more about the Arkansas Regional Braille Challenge, contact Lori Cole, AR. Regional Braille Challenge Coordinator, at (501) 296-1810.

Technology

This past school year we made the following upgrades in order to better meet the needs of the school and students. We began making significant investments in Chromebooks, laptops and other devices to ensure each student had access to a virtual learning device. We have continued that investment this year as we have learned more about the needs of our students in a virtual learning setting.

- Our Email system was converted (upgraded) from an on-premises server to an updated government “cloud-based” system – Microsoft 365.
- Each PC and laptop on campus has had their Microsoft Office software upgraded to the newest version.
- Additional “core” switches were added to our main network distribution center.
- Additional high-speed network switches were added to (replaced in) some buildings.
- Upgraded 40+ computers / laptops with new Solid State Drives and additional memory (if needed). This allowed for a savings of more than \$30,000 versus buying brand new computers / laptops.
- Freedom Scientific FUSION Software (JAWS & ZoomText) upgraded.
- Multiple new network cabling installs around campus.
- Renewal of various software access packages including Destiny (Library, Textbooks, and Resource), Renaissance Learning (Accelerated Reader, STAR 360), Cylance anti-virus / network protection.
- Additional door security systems installed.
- 3 – 75” SMART Board (Interactive / collaborative) with carts and / or wall mount.
- 15 Dell desktop computers.
- 20 Dell desktop monitors.
- 45 Dell laptop computers. The majority of these laptops were used to replace outdated laptops and to give faculty and students more up-to-date technology for COVID-19 related virtual classes.
- 50 Dell Chromebook computers for virtual and classroom use (COVID-19 related).
- 40 HP Chromebook computers for virtual and classroom use (COVID-19 related).
- 12 laser printers to replace non-functioning printers or add to an office or classroom.
- 16 refreshable Braille / Note-taker displays.
- We also received a donation from Aruba Networks of 6 exterior wireless access points, 4 networking switches, and various mounting brackets for this equipment. This donation of approximately \$23,000 was to enable outside social distancing / classroom activities (COVID-19 related).

Gifted & Talented

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired continues to strengthen the Gifted and Talented Program through serving the individual needs of our gifted learners. This past year we served grades kindergarten through third grade through literature based whole group enrichment delivered by the GT Coordinator/Facilitator. Grades four-six were served through a pullout program based on science frameworks and an organization called Learning to Give. Grades seven-twelve were served through secondary course content delivered by the classroom teachers and participated in a pull-out class with services delivered by the GT Coordinator/Facilitator. Seven-nine studied forensics while ten-twelve participated in a community service project, Pay It Forward. The GT curriculum requires students to engage in higher order thinking, critical thinking skills, problem solving and creativity.

This year, all students will be served in the same way with the exception of secondary course content. Grades seven through nine will receive services by the classroom teachers and will meet with the GT Coordinator for affective needs only once a month. Grades ten-twelve will receive services from the classroom teachers and Virtual Arkansas teachers and will meet with the GT Coordinator for affective needs once a month.

The GT Program at ASB serves fifteen students in grades kindergarten through third grade for enrichment and twelve identified students grades four through twelve.

Home Life

The Home Life Residential Department is in charge of caring for our students that reside on campus throughout the week. In addition to supervision and care by the team of Residential Advisors the program includes activities that center around the Expanded Core Curriculum for blind and visually impaired students such as independent living skills, social skills, and recreational skills.

In everything we do- it's all about the kids

Instructional Resource Center

The Instructional Resource Center (IRC) provides large print and Braille textbooks to visually impaired, public school students in the State of Arkansas. This includes providing textbook research and procurement services for approximately 32 students who attend public school, totaling over 225 textbooks. In addition, we provided textbook research and procurement services for over 100 visually impaired students who attended the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in 2019-2020. These orders include a range of requests from novels to AP textbooks. These specialized materials are provided through a state textbook fund as part of the school's appropriation and funding as well as through Federal Quota funds for instructional materials for the blind and visually impaired.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the project produced over 412 large print books and transcribed over 146 books into Braille.

The IRC has several work study programs to help prepare students aged 16-21 with work skills to increase their employability. For the fall of 2020, three students have signed up for work study which will provide office skills and employment history for the future. Next summer (2021) we plan to participate in two camps for visually impaired or blind students to be trained in office and library management.

The federal government provides educational instructional materials funds for blind and visually impaired students who meet or function at the definition of blindness. These are known as Federal Quota funds and are distributed through the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to schools for the blind and other organizations serving the blind. Funds are based on an annual census count which determines a per dollar amount per qualified student. These funds make it possible to purchase specialized instructional materials such as braille and large print as well as many other types of instructional aides and adaptive technology devices through APH.

The Wrightsville Braille Project, located at Wrightsville Men's State Prison, provides a valuable resource in helping us transcribe textbooks and other instructional materials into braille as well as producing materials in large print. The program currently has two certified UEB Braille transcribers and two trainees.

Infirmary

The Infirmary on the ASBVI campus provides a 10 bed licensed infirmary through the Arkansas Department of Health and is opened 24 hours a day. We have two full time registered nurse and one full time licensed practical nurses. Our infirmary provides a health service program under the direction of a licensed nurse. The program shall include Individual Health Care plans, screening, referral and follow-up procedures for all students. Facilities, equipment and materials necessary for the operation of the program shall be provided. Current health appraisal records for all students will be maintained in accordance with guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health. The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will take proper measures to ensure the safety of all students and protect those students against injuries which may occur in or on the school facilities or site.

The registered nurse provides yearly continuing education in the areas of emergency protocols, Asthma, Blood Borne Pathogens, along with CPR and Stop the Bleed training for students and staff.

This past year our nurses served over 18 students with asthma, over 15 with seizure disorders, over 22 with ADD/ADHD, 101 with visual impairments, over 40 with congenital disorders, over 9 with digestive disorders, over 16 with hearing impairments, some with depression, over 14 with dermatologic disorders, over 54 with genetic disorders, over 39 with neurodevelopmental disorders, over 34 with non-threatening allergies, some with skeletal system disorders as well as students with other needs including but not limited to life-threatening allergies, hypertension, circulatory disorders, eating disorders, encopresis disorders, endocrine disorders, hematologic disorders, hepatic disorders, immunological disorders, malabsorption disorders, neuromuscular disorders, neurological disorders, and permanent orthopedic disorders. Even though campus classes closed in March, our nurses saw students 1181 times this past year for illnesses and injuries that required first-aid. Out of that number 1121 were sent back to class, 52 were sent home, 13 were sent to the ER/PCP. This past school year on a long-term basis more than a third of our students received scheduled medications daily while at school. Our nursing staff also dispensed doses of over the counter medications to our students that we provide for them due to pa-

which is being funded through a grant from ANCRC. This phase will focus on the interior portions of the infirmary. This phase will focus on replacing the exterior windows and finishing touches in the interior of the building. The infirmary building is a WPA building that dates back to 1938 and is the only one remaining that is still used as such today for our students.

Business Office

The Business/HR offices provide fiscal and personnel support for the school along with payroll processing. In addition, asset and inventory control are housed in the business office. Currently, we are working through the logistics of implementing a shared service model between ASBVI and ASD.

Maintenance

This department provides overall maintenance support for the school as well as custodial and campus grounds care. Currently, we are working through the logistics of implementing a shared service model between ASBVI and ASD for custodial and grounds care services.

Due to the pandemic we are contracting with a professional custodial company to supplement our team of custodians in keeping the buildings disinfected and sanitized.

There are several projects in process at the school. Two of our playgrounds have had several upgrades including adding a shade canopy.

We are beginning the final phase of the infirmary building renovation and expect that project to be completed early spring. This project has been funded through an ANCRC grant.

We are nearing the completion of the renovation of the east end of the gymnasium that includes the boys shower and restroom area as well as adding an accessible bathroom/shower area on that end. The shingled roof on that end of the gym was replaced and we are in process of replacing 5 of the exterior windows on that end. In addition, new flooring is being installed in the weight room.

This year we will begin interior renovations of the Cottage building that currently houses our Parent Resource Center and Birth to Three programs.

The main building has had some pointing/masonry work done on two small sections that were allowing moisture to seep through to interior walls.

This past year we replaced tread on stairways in the Learning Center and the Vocational building. We have also installed several vent-a-hood fire suppression systems over stoves in several areas.

For HVAC services we are currently working under contract with Sparkfund for preventive maintenance and repair and replacement services.

Child Nutrition

The Child Nutrition Department participates in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) and the Commodity Distribution Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The 2019-2020 school year was a big year for the Child Nutrition Program. The required 3-year Annual Administrative Review for School Food Authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program was conducted in October 2019. The Review provided a comprehensive evaluation of the school meal program in both Critical and General Areas. Along with the Administrative Review the department also received a Procurement Review. The Procurement Review was conducted to ensure that all aspects of purchasing goods and services with Child Nutrition funds follows regulations. Both reviews have been successfully completed.

Beginning in the 2020 – 2021 School Year, the entire school is participating in CEP which allows our school to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without the burden of collecting household applications. The school is reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students participating in the program.

Because of COVID the department has been limited to food options (the salad bar and juice machine has been moved to a different location) and several methods for delivery of meal service have been implemented.

Conclusion

We hope this report has provided an overview of the school's programs and services as well as the improvements that have been made or are currently in process. While the pandemic has presented some very challenging circumstances to navigate through the school and it's staff along with the ASBVI community remain committed to moving forward in educating and serving blind and visually impaired students in the state of Arkansas.



Community Engagement

ASBVI salutes those who have served and are proud to call them our own.



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Demographics

County Map

Foundation

Alumni

Graduates and Retirees

***In* Conclusion**

**It's All About The Kids
1857-2020**